



PENINSULA FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.

Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, Australia

NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2012

Woods Reserve

Four members gathered on a showery but mild day, with only a light wind, for a primarily bird-watching outing, while always keeping an eye out for anything else interesting. A total of 33 birds were seen, including Australasian Grebe on the dam and Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring overhead.

Bird List For Woods Reserve 1 October 2012

Australasian Grebe	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Straw-necked Ibis	White-eared Honeyeater
Wedge-tailed Eagle	White-plumed Honeyeater
Common Bronzewing	Eastern Spinebill
Crested Pigeon	Eastern Yellow Robin
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Golden Whistler
Crimson Rosella	Rufous Whistler
Eastern Rosella	Grey Shrike-thrush
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Magpie-Lark
Laughing Kookaburra	Grey Fantail
Superb Fairy-wren	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
Spotted Pardalote	Grey Butcherbird
Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Red Wattlebird	Little Raven
Little Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Bell Miner	Common Blackbird
Noisy Miner	

The most unusual sighting was of an Agile Antechinus (*Antechinus agilis*) running up and down a dead tree trunk. Heather saw it first, then it obligingly did the return trip when we were all watching.

We also saw a few interesting orchids, including: the Club emblem, *Thelymitra antennifera*, or Rabbit's-ears, not often found.

Orchids

Caladenia catenata (White Caladenia)
Caladenia carnea (Pink Fingers)
Chiloglottis valida (Common Bird-orchid)
Glossodia major (Waxlip)
Pterostylis melagramma (Tall Greenhood)

Pterostylis nutans (Nodding Greenhood)

Thelymitra antennifera (Rabbits Ears)



Caladenia catenata – Photo: Lee Denis

Other plants in flower included

Acacia myrtifolia (Myrtle Wattle)
A. mearnsi (Black Wattle)
A. melanoxylon (Blackwood)
A. verticillata (Prickly Moses)
Amyema pendula (Drooping mistletoe)
Billardiera scandens (Common Apple berry)
Burchardia umbellata (Milkmaids)
Chamaescilla corymbosa (Blue squill)
Clematis aristata (Old Man's Beard)
Comesperma volubile (Love creeper)
Daviesia latifolia (Hop Bitter-pea)
Dichondra repens (Kidney Weed)
Dillwynia glaberrima (Smooth Parrot pea)
Drosera peltata (Pale Sundew)
Hibbertia sp. (Guinea Flower)
Indigofera australis (Austral Indigo)
Kennedia prostrata (Running postman)
Olearia lirata (Snow daisy)
Wahlenbergia sp. (Bluebell)
Wurmbea dioica (Early Nancy)

Also sighted were three Eastern Grey Kangaroos. - **Judy Smart**

Brian Thomas, Ranger, Coolart, "Feathers and Flight" - 10th October

Brian has been Ranger at Coolart for 20 years, through times of drought and currently plentiful water.

Brian started with a photo of an *Archioptrix* fossil – a creature half way between birds and dinosaurs, 150 – 160 million years ago, which had feathers.

Feathers are made of keratin, the same substance as hooves, hair and finger nails.

Types of feathers:

contour – "normal" feathers, such as the wing and the tail;

down – especially on young birds, for insulation;

semi plume – halfway between contour and down;

bristle – usually around the face; and

filoplume – which have hardly any barbules, probably more for decoration than flight.

Feathers and appearances: they are used for display, for example by peacocks, birds of paradise and lyrebirds, for attracting females: and the opposite, for disguise, for example female birds. Colours are created by pigment from the body, or by iridescence such as on bronze wing pigeons. Some feather colour is created by external factors e.g. a Flamingo's pink colour is created by blue-green algae, and in captivity without the algae they lose their colour.

Birds groom to keep their feathers in good condition, to keep waterproof and to prevent mites and lice, using strategies such as sunbathing, dust bathing, washing and even using the formic acid from ants. Most birds have oil glands to shed water off their feathers, but cormorants don't, and have to dry off after swimming.

How many feathers on a bird? This varies considerably – a hummingbird has approx 940 feathers, and a whistling swan 25,000. All birds moult every year, to renew their worn feathers, and some birds moult twice a year, such as fairy wrens, with their summer and winter plumage.

Birds are constantly evolving – for example – budgerigars in the wild are green and much smaller than domesticated budgies, which can be blue, yellow, and multicoloured as well as green.

Humans use feathers for decoration – for example, tribal head-dresses in New Guinea, South America, and American Indians, and hat decorations for Westerners. Feathers used to be used for writing quills and arrow flights, and are still used for fishing flies and down for doonas.

Flight

Brian explained the aerodynamics of flight, how air travels faster over the top of the wings, creating a lower pressure area and enabling the bird to get off the ground.

The forms of flight are:

- flapping, the most common form:
- gliding, such as albatross:
- soaring, on long broad wings, such as wedge tailed eagles and
- hovering, such as hummingbirds.

Some bird flocks fly in a V formation to save on energy, and others use updrafts near cliffs for the same reason. Owls lack hooks on the edges of their wings, so they can fly silently and surprise their prey. Landing also requires strategies – generally the body becomes more vertical, in order to slow down, and some geese use "whiffling", where they turn on their back to manage their landing. And of course there are flightless birds, whose feathers and wings have adapted to their different uses, such as penguins and emus.

Brian finished by thanking Steve Wright and Keith Hindley for many of the images he used. Steve recently won 1st and 2nd prizes in an ABC competition for nature photography, winning tickets to see David Attenborough in Melbourne.

- Judy Smart

Baluk Willam Nature Conservation Reserve, Belgrave South – October 13

This reserve, in the south-west Dandenong Ranges, is noted for its flora, particularly its orchids, with 73 species having been recorded there. We did not find quite that many – only a dozen or so – but what we did see was quite impressive. A member of the very active friends group who we happened to encounter was of the opinion that this has been a slightly disappointing year for orchids. In addition, being a fairly cool day many of the sun orchids weren't open.

Orchids we observed included*

Caladenia carnea (Pink fingers)

Caladenia catenata (White fingers)

Caladenia tentaculata (Green comb spider)

Lyperanthus suavis (Brown beaks - yellow and brown forms)

Acianthus caudatus (Mayfly)

Diuris orientis (Donkey orchid)

Glossodia major Waxlip

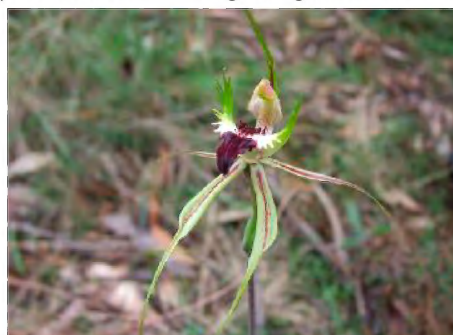
Pterostylis melagramma Tall greenhood

Pterostylis pedunculata Maroonhood

Pterostylis nutans Nodding greenhood

Thelymitra rubra Salmon sun orchid

Cryptostylis subulata large tongue orchid - leaves only



Green-comb Spider Orchid (photo – Lee Denis)

The other sun orchids were in bud but could not be identified.

A major revision of the orchids has resulted in many new botanical names; not being early adopters, we have continued to use the established names. We don't have smartphones either.

An extensive list of orchids, and other information about the Reserve, can be found at the Friends website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fobw>.

In Flower

Because of the cool Spring weather the flowers were not as prolific or varied as in other visits, and local experts visiting at the same time also commented on this. However the Yellow Rice-flower *Pimelea flava* was spectacular and dominant.

Plants in Flower Baluk Willam NCR 13 October 2012	
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids
<i>Chamaescilla corymbosa</i>	Blue stars
<i>Diplarrena moraea</i>	Butterfly flag iris
<i>Acacia brownei</i>	Heath wattle
<i>Acacia stricta</i>	Hop wattle
<i>Allocasuarina paludosa</i>	Swamp casuarina
<i>Anyema pendula</i>	Mistletoe drooping
<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	Apple berry
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop bush
<i>Hakea ulicina</i>	Furze hakea
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Purple Coral-pea
<i>Hedycarya angustifolia</i>	Native mulberry
<i>Hibbertia sp</i>	Guinea Flower
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly teatree
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	wattle mat rush

<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	Many-flowered mat rush
<i>Pimelea flava</i>	Yellow Rice-flower
<i>Pultenea gunni</i>	Golden bush pea
<i>Pultenea hispidula</i>	Rusty bush pea
<i>Olearia lirata</i>	Snowy daisy bush
<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	Flat pea
<i>Spyridium parvifolium</i>	Dusty Miller

We saw relatively few birds

Bird List Baluk Willam NCR 13 October 2012	
Pacific Black Duck	Brown Thornbill
Australian Hobby	Red Wattlebird
Dusky Moorhen	Eastern Yellow Robin
Spotted Turtle-Dove	Golden Whistler
Common Bronzewing	Grey Shrike-thrush
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Grey Fantail
Crimson Rosella	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
Eastern Rosella	Grey Butcherbird
Fan-tailed Cuckoo (heard)	Australian Magpie
Laughing Kookaburra	Little Raven
White-throated Treecreeper	Common Blackbird
Superb Fairy-wren	

Interestingly, the Fauna Survey Group of the Victorian Field Nats recently set up five cameras in the Reserve; the hoped-for images of bandicoots were not obtained, but species photographed included Black Wallaby, Common Wombat, Fallow Deer and Grey Kangaroo (*Field Nats News* #225). -Judy Smart, Lee Denis

Crib Point 30th October

It was the first really sunny day for a while, so a few of us went down to Lorimer St to see the sun orchids, and we weren't disappointed, they were gorgeous, a mass of bright blue.

Sun Orchids

<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>	Salmon
<i>T. pauciflora</i>	Reluctant
<i>T. aristata</i>	Great
<i>T. reflexa</i>	Gaping
<i>T. ixioides</i>	Spotted
<i>T. media</i>	Tall

Names per Rudie Kuitert, identification not at all certain apart from the easy ones.

Lots of onion orchids, and large tongue orchids in bud. We didn't see any leek orchids or spider orchids, as seen on other occasions previously.



Great Sun-orchid (*T. aristata*) – Photo: Lee Denis

In Flower

<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	Chocolate Lily
<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	Common Apple berry
<i>Brunonia australis</i>	Blue pincushion
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids
<i>Comesperma volubile</i>	Love creeper
<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>	Hop Bitter pea
<i>Goodenia geniculata</i>	Bent goodenia
<i>Hibbertia stricta</i>	Guinea flower
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	Button Everlasting
<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	Small Rice flower

<i>Pimelia octophylla</i>	Nodding rice flower
<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	Common Flat pea
<i>Sphaerolobium vimineum</i>	Leafless globe pea
<i>Stylidium gramineum</i>	Trigger plant
<i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i>	Small grass tree

We continued on to Governor Rd, corner of Milne St, where we saw more sun orchids, plus *Lyperanthus suavolens* (Brown Beaks) and some unidentified leaves in the middle of the reserve. Also seen was the Short Purple-flag, *Patersonia fragilis*. **Judy Smart**

Birdwatching at Coolart, November 5th

On an overcast but warm and still day, five members travelled to Coolart for our birdwatching excursion. It's great to see the water, and the birds, return to Coolart this year. A total of sixty birds was recorded.

Almost the first sightings were a White-faced and a White-necked Heron together on the edge of the garden. Among the water birds, Blue-billed Duck, Shoveller and Spotless Crake were standouts; of the bush birds we were pleased to see Sacred Kingfisher, Red-browed Finch (which used to be much more common on the Peninsula) and nesting Tawny Frogmouths.



Tawny Frogmouth on nest at Coolart (Photo- Lee Denis)

Bird List For Coolart 5 November 2012

Blue-billed Duck	White-faced Heron	Common Bronzewing	Brown Thornbill	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
Black Swan	White-necked Heron	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	Grey Butcherbird
Australian Wood Duck	Great Egret	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Australian Magpie
Pacific Black Duck	Australian White Ibis	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Noisy Miner	Little Raven
Australasian Shoveler	Straw-necked Ibis	Eastern Rosella	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Red-browed Finch
Grey Teal	Spotless Crake	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-plumed Honeyeater	European Goldfinch
Chestnut Teal	Purple Swamphen	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	New Holland Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Hardhead	Dusky Moorhen	Tawny Frogmouth	Eastern Yellow Robin	Clamorous Reed-Warbler
Hoary-headed Grebe	Eurasian Coot	Laughing Kookaburra	Golden Whistler	Silvereye
Little Pied Cormorant	Pacific Gull	Sacred Kingfisher	Grey Shrike-thrush	Common Blackbird
Little Black Cormorant	Silver Gull	Superb Fairy-wren	Magpie-Lark	Common Starling
Great Cormorant	Spotted Turtle-Dove	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail	Common Myna

Dr Roz Jessop, Environment Manager, Phillip Island Conservation Park "Natal Dispersal of Hooded Plovers at Phillip Island" - November 14

Roz has spoken to us before, on migration of Ruddy Turnstones. She started with the status of Hooded Plovers, which is endangered - approx 3000 birds in Australia. They

live on beaches and nest over summer, at the same time that the human population use beaches. Their nest is a scrape on the sand, dune or rock, and when the parents are disturbed by humans or dogs or other animals they hide or try to distract the disrupter, leaving the eggs exposed to heat or predators like ravens. Humans also walk on the eggs.

Breeding: pairs form a territory along a section of beach, and lay 2 – 3 eggs, which take 28 days to hatch, and 35 to fledge. The young are sexually mature next season. They are long lived, up to 15 years.

Chicks have been banded since 1993, and there are counts four times a year on Phillip Island (also for Pacific Gulls, Kelp Gulls and Oystercatchers). The results of these counts of banded chicks are:

- 25% recorded breeding on Philip Island,
- 39% recorded but not breeding,
- 16% left Phillip Island and recorded elsewhere.

Of the 58 birds counted after banding, just before dispersal, only 33 birds were counted in the next month, and of these 27% had moved, most within 4-5 km. At the 30 -90 day count, 39 birds were found, 62% had moved, most by 6km approx, many to wilder beaches without car parks, where they are less likely to be disturbed. At 90 days 48 birds were recorded.

In winter the hooded plovers flock together, unlike in breeding season when they have their own territory. They dispersed east and west of Phillip Island- west to

Mornington Peninsula back beaches and Anglesea, one as far as Warrnambool, and east to Bass Coast, Inverloch and Venus Bay.

Management of predators on Phillip Island has seen numbers of hooded plovers improve – in 2002 there were 11 breeding pairs, in 2012 25 pairs. In 1992 they bred on 7 beaches, in 2011, 17 beaches. Phillip Island is free of foxes- there are 100 cameras monitoring them. Last year 100 cats were trapped – 99% of them feral. French Island doesn't have foxes, but a big feral cat problem – in 8 weeks 230 cats were caught.

Another problem for hooded plovers is erosion – they need a sloping shoreline, and where marram grass is controlling movement of sand dunes this can create steep cliffs of sand, which do not suit plovers.

In response to a question on whether Pacific Gulls eat hooded plover young – Roz said that they feed more on shearwater chicks, which are plentiful, and many are undersized and would die anyway. - **Judy Smart**

November 24: Bunyip State Park

This excursion was delayed due to the Club's 60th Birthday celebration the previous week. Perhaps as a consequence, only two members participated in what turned out to be a wonderful day.

First stop was the Buttongrass Walk. This area was burnt in the last bushfires, leading to a profusion of flowering shrubs, including the rare Swamp Bush-pea *Pultenaea weindorferi* – although we were too late for the flowering season of this species. It is expected that as the recovery continues this species will be crowded out and again become rare.



Buttongrass Walk, Bunyip SP (Photo – Lee Denis)

The higher, dryer area were covered with an open woodland primarily composed of *Eucalyptus radiata* (Narrow-leaved Peppermint) and *E. obliqua* (Messmate), with a low

understorey of rushes and grasses. Wetter areas contained many flowering shrubs and herbs. Most conspicuous were Wiry Bauera (*Bauera rubiodes*) and Blue Dampiera (*Dampiera stricta*); the Prickly Tea-tree *Leptospermum continentale* was also abundant. Some of the plants noted in flower are listed below.

Plants in Flower, Buttongrass Walk Nov 24th 2012

<i>Bauera rubiodes</i>	Wiry Bauera
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids
<i>Clematis aristata</i>	Old Man's Beard
<i>Dampiera stricta</i>	Blue Dampiera
<i>Dillwynia glabberima</i>	Smooth Parrot-pea
<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>	Showy Parrot-pea
<i>Goodenia humilis</i>	Swamp Goodenia
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia
<i>Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus</i>	Button-grass
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree
<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	Slender Rice-flower
<i>Sphaerolobium vimineum</i>	Leafless Globe-pea
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Grass Trigger-plant
<i>Thelymitra aristata</i>	Great Sun-orchid
<i>Viminaria juncea</i>	Golden Spray
<i>Xyris gracilis</i>	Slender Yellow-eye

Birds sighted included Olive-backed Oriole, Rufous Whistler and Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo. Fan-tailed Cuckoos were heard.

We then went to Mortimer Picnic Ground for lunch, followed by a short walk on the nature trail. Here we were lucky to get a good sighting of a lyrebird; we also saw Golden Whistler and Red-browed Finch. - **Lee Denis**



Lyrebird at Mortimer Nature Walk (Photo- Lee Denis)

Bird List For Bunyip State Park 24/11/2012

Purple Swamphen	Striated Thornbill
Masked Lapwing	Red Wattlebird
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Galah	White-eared Honeyeater
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Eastern Yellow Robin
Crimson Rosella	Golden Whistler
Eastern Rosella	Rufous Whistler
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Grey Shrike-thrush
Laughing Kookaburra	Grey Fantail
Superb Lyrebird	Olive-backed Oriole
White-throated Treecreeper	Australian Magpie
Superb Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong
Spotted Pardalote	Red-browed Finch
White-browed Scrubwren	Common Blackbird
Brown Thornbill	

Langwarrin Flora & Fauna Reserve December 3rd

This was intended as a birdwatching outing, and a total of 30 birds was reached, notably Rufous Fantail, Restless Flycatcher and Brown-headed Honeyeater. However on this trip orchids were also a priority.

On the day before, some members had attended the Friends group Christmas breakup at the Reserve, where we were treated to a talk and short tour by Rudie Kuiter. Rudie has been studying orchids at Langwarrin (as well as elsewhere) for some time, and told us of some of his findings regarding the pollination of orchids by native wasps. Afterwards he led us to view some Tongue Orchids, and Elbow Orchids. Those of us who were there were able to show these orchids to our other members, together with some others we found for ourselves:

Horned orchid - *Orthoceras strictum*

Onion orchid - *Microtis* sp.

Large tongue orchid - *Cryptostylis subulatum*

Elbow orchid - *Thynniorchis huntiana*

The Elbow orchid was a first for all of us, and we would never have known it was there if not for the tour with Rudie Kuiter the day before.



Elbow Orchid (Photo – Lee Denis)



Large Tongue Orchid (Photo – Lee Denis)

Bird List: Langwarrin FFR 3rd December 2012

Chestnut Teal	New Holland Honeyeater
Australian Pelican	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australian White Ibis	Golden Whistler
Straw-necked Ibis	Rufous Whistler
Common Bronzewing	Grey Shrike-thrush
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Restless Flycatcher
Rainbow Lorikeet	Magpie-Lark
Laughing Kookaburra	Rufous Fantail
Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail
Spotted Pardalote	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Red Wattlebird	Australian Magpie
White-eared Honeyeater	Little Raven
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Common Blackbird
White-naped Honeyeater	Common Myna

No raptors, dusky woodswallows or cuckoos!

Other plants in flower LFFR 3rd December 2012

<i>Goodenia elongata</i>	Lanky Goodenia
<i>Goodenia geniculata</i>	Bent Goodenia
<i>Goodenia humilis</i>	Swamp Goodenia
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia
<i>Hibbertia acicularis</i>	Prickly Guinea-flower
<i>Hibbertia fasciculata</i>	Bundled Guinea-flower
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree
<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	Long Purple Flag
<i>Stackhousia viminea</i>	Candles
<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	Fringe lily
<i>Trachymene composita var composita</i>	Wild parsnips
<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	Yellow rush lily
<i>Urticularia dichotoma</i>	Fairies Aprons
<i>Villarsia reniformis</i>	Marsh flower

Also sighted: a Swamp wallaby (on the Owen Dawson track). - **Lee Denis, Judy Smart**

December 15: Western Treatment Plant

Most of us had not previously visited the Werribee treatment farm, so we were determined to go ahead despite the dire weather forecast, and some early drizzle in Frankston. As it turned out we had a completely fine, albeit windy, day to cover a large part of the WTP (although not all of it) under the leadership of Roger Standen.

Our bird count for the day was 68, the most common being Red-necked Stint, together with Curlew Sandpiper and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. A personal highlight was the sight of large numbers of Pink-eared, Blue-billed, Musk and Freckled Ducks. We saw some birds that we rarely see in our usual haunts, including Banded Stilt and Little Egret.

Some bush birds were also seen, including Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, Fairy Martin and Yellow-rumped Thornbill.

Our total count was less than on our February trip to the Eastern Treatment Plant at Bangholme (although the numbers there were largely due to the expertise of Mike Carter and his associates), but we did see a few birds at Werribee that we did not see at Bangholme.

Our thanks to Roger for leading the trip; hopefully there will be more to come. - **Lee Denis**



Stints and Sandpipers



*Red-necked Avocets, Pink-eared and Freckled Ducks
(Photos – Lee Denis)*

Bird List For Western Treatment Plant 15 December 2012

Blue-billed Duck	Darter	Brown Falcon	Red-kneed Dotterel	Willie Wagtail
Musk Duck	Little Pied Cormorant	Australian Spotted Crake	Masked Lapwing	Australian Magpie
Freckled Duck	Pied Cormorant	Purple Swamphen	Silver Gull	Little Raven
Black Swan	Little Black Cormorant	Black-tailed Native-hen	Caspian Tern	Skylark
Cape Barren Goose	Great Cormorant	Eurasian Coot	Crested Tern	House Sparrow
Australian Shelduck	Australian Pelican	Common Greenshank	Whiskered Tern	European Goldfinch
Australian Wood Duck	White-faced Heron	Red-necked Stint	Crested Pigeon	Welcome Swallow
Pacific Black Duck	Little Egret	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Galah	Fairy Martin
Australasian Shoveler	Great Egret	Curlew Sandpiper	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Clamorous Reed-Warbler
Grey Teal	Australian White Ibis	Pied Oystercatcher	Superb Fairy-wren	Little Grassbird
Chestnut Teal	Straw-necked Ibis	Black-winged Stilt	White-browed Scrubwren	Golden-headed Cisticola
Pink-eared Duck	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Banded Stilt	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Common Starling
Hardhead	Black-shouldered Kite	Red-necked Avocet	White-fronted Chat	
Hoary-headed Grebe	Swamp Harrier	Red-capped Plover	Magpie-Lark	

60th Birthday: Celebrating 60 years – 1952 – 2012

Ten years ago, when the Club was turning 50 years old, we had quite a large celebration, with a guided walk through the George Pentland Gardens, (led by Leon Costermans), followed by lunch at a reception house, with many reminiscences by senior members.

Ten years on, many of those speaking or present at the 50th celebrations are no longer with us, and this time we had a smaller celebration, with an informal lunch at our usual meeting place, displays of photos and memorabilia of the past 60 years, and entertainment. David Archer, who has been a member since childhood, and is our current member with the longest association with the Club, spoke on his memories of early days, and showed photos of long ago excursions and camps. Bett Mitchell, who was unable to attend, sent a DVD, taken from her video of the 50th

celebration. Yvonne Incigneri showed some short wildlife videos she had made of local birdlife.

Lee put together a newsletter covering many aspects of our 60 year history, which was quite an achievement. Jean Grey wrote a history for the 25 year celebration, but nothing had been put in writing since, so this was much appreciated and very interesting.

It was wonderful to catch up with many older members we don't see much of any more, such as Irene Bounds (life member), Pat Stretton, Margaret Grice, Kate Rabl, and Alison Walker, and friends of the Club such as Dr John Mitchell, a regular speaker over many years, Leon Costermans, an even more regular speaker, Hans Brunner, a tireless advocate for fauna, Norm McKinlay of Chinamen's Creek and Tootgarook Wetlands, and many others we were pleased to see. - **Judy Smart**



SEANA Autumn Campout

Our Club is hosting the SEANA campout in March 2013. The camp will be based at Merricks Lodge, in Merricks (Melway 192 B12), a beautiful bushland setting with its own lake, complete with waterbirds. The camp will feature trips to Mud Island, in Port Phillip Bay, and Pt Nepean, covering both natural history and the history of the Quarantine Station and fort. Other planned field excursions include trips to some of the coastal and bushland areas of the southern Peninsula. Full details and registration forms may be obtained from our website.

Hope to see you there.

Peninsula Field Naturalists Club Inc

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month with a field trip the following Saturday. Further information and current Programme of Activities can be found at our website.

President:
Mrs Pat Gomm

All correspondence to
Secretary
Mrs Judy Smart

Annual Subs due July

Treasurer:
Ms Linda Edwards

Adult	\$20
Concession	\$15

Newsletter edited by Lee Denis
www.home.vicnet.net.au/~penfnc

BHL



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